

Our goals/hopes

- Family focused team driven process
- An effective meeting:
 - ✓ Opportunity for participants to be heard
 - ✓ Participants contribute to process in an honest and respectful manner
 - ✓ Participants express willingness and commitment to provide the best placement for the child
- Successful outcomes:
 - ✓ Children safe with their families
 - ✓ Children in their schools, and communities
 - ✓ Children placed with extended family or friends when the birth family is not an immediate option
 - ✓ Siblings placed together
 - ✓ Decrease in the number of placement moves
 - ✓ Decrease any differences linked to race/ethnicity, gender, or age

TDM is a Family to Family strategy

Family to Family is an Annie E. Casey initiative funded by the Stuart Foundation

Your Team Decision Making Meeting:

Date _____

Time _____

Location _____

Social Worker _____

Social Worker's telephone# _____

Social Worker Supervisor telephone# _____

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If you have any questions, or needs such as transportation, or translation to attend this meeting please call your Social Worker.

Your participation in this meeting is greatly desired and essential in making the best placement decision for your child(ren).

Department of Social Services
Child Welfare Services
P.O. Box 8119
San Luis Obispo, CA 93403-8119
1.805.781.1800
www.slodss.org

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PLACEMENT TEAM DECISION MAKING

TDM



*San Luis Obispo
County Department
of Social Services*

*Child Welfare
Services*

*A responsible and caring
community:
Safe, Resilient, and
Healthy*

What is TDM?

A meeting that:

- brings together people who are involved with the family
- is held to ensure the best decision is made about the care and placement of the child
- focuses on the safety and needs of the child and family

When does a TDM occur?

When:

- A child's safety or well-being in the home is of concern
- A child has been removed from his or her home
- A child is in protective custody and a change in placement is required, requested, or being considered
- A child is soon to be reunified with his or her family/guardian

Who attends a TDM?

- Parents / Guardians / Family members
- Child as appropriate
- Family friends
- Social Worker
- Social Worker Supervisor
- Community members
- Resource / Foster parents as appropriate
- Others identified by the family or Social Worker
- Facilitator

What happens at a TDM?

- Introductions are made
- Guidelines are established
- Participants contribute thoughts towards needs, and best placement for the child
- Participants identify:
 - ✓ child's needs
 - ✓ family's strengths and needs
 - ✓ community resources available
 - ✓ a plan for the child's immediate safety
 - ✓ placement options
- **A team decision is made which could include the child possibly returning or remaining home**
- Meetings are 1 to 2 hours maximum

Why have a TDM?

Better placement decisions are made because:

- Broader participation leads to creative ideas and solutions
- Parents / Guardians are involved in the decision-making
- Extended family and friends provide insight
- Valuable information about the child is shared
- People and places important to the child are acknowledged and respected
- Children are more likely to remain with family, at their school, and in their community

